

the commission's report will be heavily based on whether states choose to cooperate in providing information.

Even if the report were narrowed to only study the federal criminal justice system, the scope of issues to be examined is still too extensive. In this bill, the term "criminal justice system" remains far too broad. While a report on only the federal criminal justice system could be valuable to Congress, to be effective, such a report should be narrowly targeted on specific features of the federal criminal justice system, such as law enforcement, courts, or detention facilities.

Finally, Congress already has the authority to request reports and studies of the federal and tribal criminal justice system. The Judiciary Committee and its subcommittees are also free to hold hearings on the topics outlined in this legislation. Arguably, the Judiciary Committee is abdicating to the commission part of the responsibilities it is already federally funded to perform. The commission is not necessary in order for Congress to study these issues, and it is likely duplicative of existing Judiciary Committee duties.

Our federal government has a debt of over \$13 trillion. While I realize there are likely changes we should consider making to our federal criminal justice system, I do not believe this commission, with its unlimited scope and \$14 million in funding, is the best way to determine which improvements may need to occur. Supporters of this legislation believe nothing in the bill requires the states to implement any of the commission's recommendations. It is true, sponsors included language stating, the "[r]ecommendations shall not infringe on the legitimate rights of the states to determine their own criminal laws . . . ." However, it is hard to imagine state and local governments would not feel pressure to enact whatever changes the commission recommends. Thus, in effect, not only would the federal government ultimately shape state and local criminal justice policy, but state and local governments could also easily determine they "deserve" federal funds to enact what the Congressionally-established commission proposes.

While there is no question there are vast improvements to be made at all levels of the criminal justice system, the federal government should focus on remedying the growing problems in the federal criminal justice system, not spending federal funds to determine what states are doing wrong and how to fix those problems. States can improve their criminal justice systems by learning from other states, as well as the federal government, if only Congress would effectively perform oversight of and insist on improvements within the federal criminal justice system to make it an example the states can emulate.

Sincerely,

TOM A. COBURN, M.D.,  
United States Senator.

#### 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I rise to highlight the significance of the many events and announcements occurring around the country to celebrate the enactment of the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act. This week in Wisconsin, disability advocates are holding multiple events around the State to commemorate the signing of the law on July 26, 1990, at a White House ceremony by President George H.W. Bush.

Disability advocates, employers, State and local officials, and policy-makers are speaking about and reflecting on how they have worked together and joined forces during the last two decades to make major changes in housing, in transportation, and in health and social services.

There is much discussion in the news and online about the ADA as well. In an online video entitled "We Came Together: Wisconsin Reflects on the ADA's 20th Anniversary," one Wisconsin disability rights advocate, Dick Pomo, observes that "disability today is simply a fact of life—not a way of life." This statement is testament to the hard work of millions of Americans who have come together over the last several decades, and who have journeyed to State capitals and Washington, DC, to deliver the message that they wanted to participate fully in society. Simply put, they did not take "no" for an answer.

I am also reminded that in the Senate the ADA is one of the legacies of the late Senator Edward Kennedy, with whom I worked to see that this civil rights bill became the law of the land. The House of Representatives experienced a milestone this week when Representative JIM LANGEVIN of Rhode Island was able to preside over the House because the Speaker's rostrum—a raised platform—had been made wheelchair accessible. This is a wonderful and public symbol of accessibility, a core principle of the ADA.

There are many other concrete, visible gains: kneeling buses, sidewalks and driveways with curb cuts, crosswalks with traffic lights that make audible noises to signal when it is safe to walk, and elevators and ramps that have been artfully worked into the structure of new buildings and even many historic ones. For all this and much more, I salute the tirelessness and tenacity of disability advocates across the country who have joined forces to make American society far more open and accessible to all.

As chairman of the Special Committee on Aging, I know that many of these changes will also be of enormous benefit to our now rapidly aging society. Equally important are a series of changes that are now transforming the way health and social services are delivered to those with lifelong disabilities, as well as to older Americans whose disabilities are age related.

One such key program, known as Money Follows the Person, is a Medicaid demonstration initiative in which Wisconsin has participated since 2003. This program allows States to transition beneficiaries in nursing homes to community-based living situations if they wish to do so. Funds are used for various purposes—for example, for ramps, clothes, equipment and furniture. In Wisconsin, funds have been used to reduce the number of nursing facility beds and to track spending on long-term care services and supports on an individual level. The State has

also applied for additional funding under the health reform law's expansion of Money Follows the Person, which is slated to provide \$2.25 billion in new funding through 2016.

Another program that has been central to Wisconsin's growing success in making long-term services both more available and more focused on each person's individual needs is its Aging and Disability Resource Center initiative. State officials started ADRCs in 1998 in 8 of the State's 72 counties, and they have been gradually spreading and opening in new counties ever since. The goal is to have a statewide network of ADRCs in place by 2012, operated either by county government or nonprofit organizations. Often called the "front door" of long-term care, ADRCs are charged with serving all State residents by providing them with unbiased, comprehensive information about what services and options are available to them, and, where appropriate, with eligibility and enrollment information for the Medicaid Family Care managed long-term care program.

I am pleased that the Obama administration has made ADRCs—which were pioneered in Wisconsin—an important part of their efforts to make long-term services and supports a much more well-defined and well-understood part of our health care system. This is consistent with the intent and language of the ADA, and also with the Supreme Court's *Olmstead v. L.C.* decision of a decade ago, asserting that involuntary institutionalization of people with disabilities was discriminatory under the ADA. I commend U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius for her efforts to engage States in the complex and critical tasks of improving the availability of community-based long-term services and supports, while simultaneously improving the quality and accountability of services that are provided in nursing homes.

One of my constituents recently shared with me a story that demonstrates both how important the ADA has been to people with disabilities, and also how far we still have to work toward a more inclusive and accessible society. Steve Verriden has been a quadriplegic for 35 years, the result of a dive into a lake when he was just 23 years old. Following his life-changing accident, he spent years in a nursing home before he was able to use a community integration waiver to transition to home-based assistance. With his new independence, Steve was also able to go back to school to complete a degree in journalism.

Steve has experienced how the ADA has changed the lives of people with disabilities, literally opening doors that were before inaccessible to people in wheelchairs and with severe disabilities. As Steve transitioned out of facility living and returned to school before the ADA was passed, he knows what it was like to have to wait in the cold for someone to open a door for

him, hope the classes he needed to take would be offered on a wheelchair-accessible building, and rely on friends to drive him and his wheelchair around before kneeling buses came along. Steve has since worked with an Independent Living Center, recruiting and helping people with disabilities transition from nursing homes back into the community, and sharing his personal insights with others in order to help them live more fulfilling and independent lives.

At the ADA's 20-year mark, it is clear that while we have accomplished a great deal, much change still lies ahead. The Aging Committee will continue to monitor implementation of health care reform initiatives that are designed to improve the quality of life for older adults, and will examine and explore new best practices and other efforts that can create better services, housing, and employment opportunities for the millions of Americans with disabilities.

#### STENNIS CENTER PROGRAM

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, for 8 years now, the John C. Stennis Center for Public Service Leadership has conducted a program for summer interns working in congressional offices. This 6-week program is designed to enhance their internship experience by giving them an inside view of how Congress really works. It also provides an opportunity for them to meet with senior congressional staff and other experts to discuss issues ranging from the legislative process to the influence of the media and lobbyists on Congress, to careers on Capitol Hill.

Interns are selected for this program based on their college record, community service experience, and interest in a career in public service. This year, 23 outstanding interns, most of them juniors and seniors in college, are working for Democrats and Republicans in both the House and Senate.

I congratulate the interns for their participation in this valuable program and I thank the Stennis Center and the senior Stennis fellows for providing such a meaningful experience for these interns and for encouraging them to consider a future career in public service.

I ask unanimous consent that a list of 2010 Stennis congressional interns and the offices in which they work be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD as follows:

Jonathan Alfuth, attending the University of Wisconsin-Madison interning in the Office of Rep. Ron Kind.

Evan Armstrong, attending Villanova Law School interning in the Office of Rep. Bob Latta.

Patrick J. Behling, attending St. Olaf College interning in the Office of Sen. Herb Kohl.

Andrew Clough, attending the University of Oregon interning in House Committee on Rules.

Paul Doucas, attending Georgetown University interning in the Office of Sen. Herb Kohl.

Justin Folsom, graduate of Montana State University interning in the Office of Sen. Jon Tester.

Aquene Freechild, attending NYU Wagner School of Public Service interning in the House Committee on Appropriations.

Elizabeth Garner, attending Vanderbilt University interning in the Office of Rep. Michael R. Turner.

Nicole Gill, attending the University of San Francisco interning in the Office of Sen. Michael Enzi.

Susan Gleiser, attending Vanderbilt University interning in the Office of Rep. Pete Sessions.

Matthew Hoppler, attending Providence College interning in the Office of Rep. Michael R. Turner.

Justin Lee, attending Utah State University interning in the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration.

Amber Manglona, attending San Jose State University interning in the Office of Rep. Zoe Lofgren.

Hallie Mast, attending Ashland University interning in the Office of Rep. Bob Latta.

Rachael Nelson, attending Augustana College interning in the Office of Sen. Kent Conrad.

Ryan Oxford, attending the University of Michigan interning in the Office of Rep. Michele Bachmann.

Kristin Palmer, attending George Washington University interning in the House Committee on Appropriations.

William Rohla, attending Minnesota State University Moorhead interning in the Office of Sen. Kent Conrad.

Wes Wakefield, attending the University of Mary interning in the Office of Sen. Kent Conrad.

Kasey Wang, attending the University of Michigan interning in the Office of Rep. David Wu.

Zachary Warma, attending Stanford University interning in the House Committee on Armed Services.

Jared Wrage, attending the University of Wyoming College of Law interning in the Office of Sen. Michael Enzi.

Hannah Wrobel, attending the University of Wisconsin-Madison interning in the Office of Rep. Ron Kind.

#### BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA 100TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. LEMIEUX. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute and recognition to the Boy Scouts of America as they gather in our Nation's Capital to celebrate their 100th anniversary.

The Boy Scouts of America was incorporated on February 8, 1910, by William Dickson Boyce. Over the last century, the Boy Scouts of America has reached more than 114 million young people by combining lifelong values and educational activities with the fun and wonder of the outdoors.

Scouting plays an important role in preparing generations of young men for the responsibilities of adulthood. Boys learn the importance of respect and community service. Through scouting activities, Boy Scouts discover the satisfaction of achievement and self-confidence. Today's Scouts embrace a lifelong commitment to service, and embody the values of personal responsibility and self-discipline. They share a

love of our environment, an appreciation of diversity, and an idealism and optimism in the future of our country. These are values that must continue to be cultivated and strengthened in communities all across our great Nation.

The Boy Scouts of America embody the moral values important to any society, and Scouts and Scout leaders are to be commended for their good work in promoting these values. As found in the Scout's Handbook, "A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent."

Let us welcome the Boy Scouts of America to Washington, DC, for their 2010 Boy Scout National Jamboree and recognize their enormous contributions to our country. I commend the Boy Scouts of America organization for a century's worth of service and commitment to instilling the finest values in America's future leaders.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### REMEMBERING GEORGE J. RITTER

● Mr. DODD. Mr. President, today I honor the life and career of George J. Ritter, who passed away on July 18, 2010, at the age of 90.

George was a remarkable public servant and a person of great principle and energy. His commitment to helping the less fortunate and for advancing social progress through the law made a lasting impact on the city of Hartford and the lives of many working families.

He grew up in New Jersey, raised by the children of German immigrants who were the very embodiment of the American dream. His grandfather had been sent to this country—alone—as little more than a child and began working full time to build a new life at the age of 12. His parents both began working when they were very young as well.

Their lives and the values they espoused had a deep impact on George, and it should come as no surprise that he would become a stalwart advocate for advancing the economic opportunities of all Americans, particularly for working families and minorities.

This clearly defined sense of social justice and the value of equal opportunities no doubt contributed to George's lifelong captivation with the law and the Constitution. He even hitchhiked as a teenager all the way to Washington, DC—just to observe the U.S. Supreme Court firsthand.

In our Nation, the will of citizens is the strongest force for social change. But building the coalitions necessary to make change happen is a difficult task and requires a common vision and commitment, and lots of energy.

George certainly had energy, and got to work building coalitions to push for change at a young age. As a student at Rutgers University, he worked to organize the nonfraternity members of the student body into a cohesive voting